towns and especially in the wasted counties no spectacle is more frequent than to see multitudes of poor people dead with their mouths all coloured green *by* eating nettles, docks, and ill things they could rend above ground

gth March FEARS AT COURT

From Court the news is the Queen much lamenteth the late death of the Countess of Nottingham, remaining ever since in a deep melancholy that she mast die herself, and complaineth much of many infirmities wherewith she seemeth suddenly to be overtaken, as imposthumation in her head, aches in her bones and continual cold in her legs, besides a notable decay of judgment, insomuch as she cannot abide discourses of government and state, but delighteth to hear old Canterbury Tales to which she is very attentive At other times she is impatient and testy, so as none of the Council but the Secretary dare come in her presence The Lord Treasurer and Sir John Fortescue have written that her coffers are empty, and they want moneys for Ireland She rages thereat greatly, so that neither of them dares come to Court, and it is thought to augment her infirmities All are in a dump at Court, some fear present danger, others doubt she will not continue past the month of May , but generally all are of opinion that she cannot overpass another winter

The rumours also of the Lady Arabella much afflict her, she rests ill at nights, forbears to use the air in the day and abstains more than usual from her meat, resisting physic She is, moreover, suspicious of some about her as ill affected. Everyone's head is full of proclamations as to what shall become of us.

The succession is much talked of, the greater part of the realm are for the King of Scots, but many would

oppose him had they any more potent competitor There is continual posting between London and Scotland The Queen gave the King of Scots £2,000 at Christmas, and has since augmented his pension by £2,000 a year , he is diligent to have all in readiness and has reviewed his forces Meantime the Lord Bnrleigh is sent to the North to withstand the Scots; but so subtle is Master Secretary that hardly can it be judged which way he will take, and he as yet ruleth all It is held for certain that his